

Accreditation Council on Optometric Education
Preliminary Approval (Preaccredited) Professional Optometric Degree
Programs
March 28, 2023

The Accreditation Council on Optometric Education has awarded the professional optometric degree programs below the following preaccreditation classification:

Preliminary Approval: this ACOE classification is equivalent to the USDE's preaccreditation classification. The classification of Preliminary Approval is granted to a professional optometric degree program that has clearly demonstrated it is developing in accordance with Council standards. The program has approval to begin student recruitment, selection and admissions, and to begin offering the program. The pre-accreditation classification of preliminary approval is the only classification available to a new professional optometric degree program, since the ACOE will not grant the accreditation classifications of "Accredited" or "Accredited with Conditions" until the program is fully operational (i.e. in its fourth year of implementation.)

The ACOE will review the preliminary approval classification annually during each academic year of the program through written reports and/or evaluation visits as deemed necessary by the Council. The Council will conduct a final on-site evaluation visit to the program for the consideration of an accreditation status during the academic year in which the first class is expected to graduate. If the program is found to meet the Council's Standards, then the Council will grant an appropriate accreditation status.

The ACOE posts on its website information associated with its Accreditation Actions and Decisions, including reason(s) and program comments, if any.

- [Recent Accreditation Actions and Decisions](#)
- [Notice of programs with Accredited with Conditions status or withdrawal of accreditation](#)
- [Archive of accreditation action reports](#)

For additional information about ACOE, visit our website at www.theacoe.org.

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Year of Next Scheduled Site Visit: **2024**